FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 031 *14 February 1983*

MEXICO

Mexican Navy Seizes Two U.S. Ships 11 Feb M 1
Leftists To Protest Queen Elizabeth's Visit M 1
Defense Secretary Denies Border Militarization M 1
Energy Committee Recommends Oil Price Cut M 1
Labor Movement Will Not Moderate Demands M 2
[UNO MAS UNO 9 Feb]
Briefs: Foreign Investment Commission; M 2
NOTIMEX Director

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Defense Minister Garcia on Fight Against Subversion P 1
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 10 Feb]
Rightists Urge 'Overthrow' of Army High Command P 2
[Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO 9 Feb]
Soldiers Escape From Guerrilla-held Camp P 3
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 11 Feb]
Guerrillas Control Several Towns in Chalatenango P 3
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 12 Feb]
High Command Says 20 Dead in Suchitoto Fighting P 3
FDR Leader Guillermo Ungo Interviewed in Paris P 4
[LE MONDE 9 Feb]
Rome Paper Interviews Party Leader Handal P 5
[L'UNITA 2 Feb]

HONDURAS

Miskitos Reportedly Fighting Cubans in Nicaragua P 8
Paz Barnica Denies Presence of Rebel Camps P 9
Guatemala Reportedly Stays Gonzalez Execution P 9
Judges' Appointments Cause Conflict in Congress P 10
[LA TRIBUNA 9 Feb]

CUBA

Commentary Sees Possible U.S. Policy Changes Q 1
Algerian Foreign Minister Meets With Castro Q 2
Vice President Rodriguez Visits Yugoslavia [cross-reference] Q 2
Meets With SFRY Leaders Q 2
Ends Visit Q 3
Montane Arrives in Syria, Makes Statement Q 3
Castro Sends Greetings to Vietnam's Le Duan Q 3
Argentines Decorate Envoy Raul Roa Kouri Q 3

MEXICAN NAVY SEIZES TWO U.S. SHIPS 11 FEB

FL112138 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2016 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The Navy Secretariat announced today that Mexico's Navy units had seized two U.S. ships which were shrimping in territorial waters. The report states that the tugboat "Oromi" of the Mexican Navy had seized the trawler "W.J. Junior" of U.S. registry fishing illegally 3 nautical miles off the coast of Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

It was also reported that the trawler "Toledo" of U.S. registry had been sighted 2.5 nautical miles off the coast, and that when it was stopped, 450 kilograms of frozen shrimp were found in its holds. The Navy Secretariat stated that the vessels were taken to the port of Tampico and placed under the jurisdiction of port authorities, which will be responsible for determining the corresponding sanctions.

LEFTISTS TO PROTEST QUEEN ELIZABETH'S VISIT

PA140223 Paris AFP in English 0209 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Feb 13 (AFP) -- Mexico's leftist political parties plan to issue formal protests against the visit here of [words indistinct] Queen Elizabeth at the end of this week, they announced Sunday. The head of the Socialist Workers Party, Adalberto Ramirez, said "monarchs represent imperialism and colonialism which have caused so much harm to society."

Abel Salgado, leader of the Unified Socialist Party, said the Mexican Government's planned official welcome for the Queen "is incongruous with the government's policy of austerity."

Mario Navarrete, head of the Mexican Workers Party, complained that preparations for the Queen's visit were "incongruous with Mexico's foreign policy of [words indistinct] Central American countries where the people are fighting to banish colonialism."

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip are (?expected here on) [words indistinct] as part of a month-long trip through the Caribbean, Mexico, the United States and Canada.

DEFENSE SECRETARY DENIES BORDER MILITARIZATION

FL091832 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1632 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 9 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- National Defense Secretary Juan Arevalo Gardoqui has denied that his country's southern border is being placed under military control since the [same] complement of troops had been manning the nation's 35 military regions for several years. In addition, Arevalo Gardoqui denied that the Mexican Army is buying weapons because what we have is enough to safeguard the interests of the nation.

ENERGY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS OIL PRICE CUT

FL121210 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0235 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico should reduce its oil prices if the world market continues its tendency to decline, the Energy Committee of the Chamber of Deputies said today.

The committee's president, Deputy Germenegildo Anguiano Martinez, said that in the current situation, the best thing for Mexico would be to cut the price of its crude since increasing the oil base [plataforma] would be like stoking a fire. The legislator recommended the realignment of oil policies. He said the cut in oil prices would in no way affect the country's financial crisis since oil is not its only source of income. He rejected that such action would aggravate unemployment but admitted that the oil regions of the Gulf of Mexico would be affected accordingly.

He said the rehabilitation of the world economy could come about as a result of a readjustment in the world oil market. He added that in under those circumstances a greater number of Mexican goods could be placed on the international market. Regarding Mexico's eventual membership in OPEC, he stressed the need for making a penetrating study of that question and said there was no advantage in making any hasty decisions. He denied that Mexico is a renegade from OPEC since Mexico has been an oil exporter for the past 7 years. At this time, 18.5 million barrels of the oil sold in the world comes from OPEC members while Mexico sells 1.5 million barrels on the market, or about 8 percent of OPEC's sales.

LABOR MOVEMENT WILL NOT MODERATE DEMANDS

PA131945 Mexico City UNO MAS UNO in Spanish 9 Feb 83 p 2

[By Mario Alberto Reyes]

[Excerpts] The organized labor movement will not moderate its demands, but neither will it exaggerate its requests to the point that it might endanger job sources, Labor Congress (CT) President Napoleon Gomez Sada said last night.

At the end of a special meeting of representatives of the 34 organizations that make up the CT, Gomez Sada said that certain businessmen have taken the crisis as a pretext to unjustifiably dismiss workers, thus worsening the unemployment situation. According to him, however, in certain cases involving personnel readjustment it has been necessary to accept such a measure because the situation of the company was difficult.

The CT president also said that there can be no fixed wage-ceiling policy, because the workers make more than the top salary anyway, through economic benefits. "The organized labor movement does not abide by any ceiling," he said. "It presents its demands in accordance with the possibilities of each enterprise."

Gomez Sada denied that the government has advised the CT on the strategy it should follow. Concerning this, he commented: "Nobody advises us. We are old enough to decide things by ourselves."

BRIEFS

FOREIGN INVESTMENT COMMISSION -- President Miguel de la Madrid has appointed Adolfo Hegewisch Fernandez Castello as the executive secretary of the National Commission on Foreign Investments. The commission includes the secretaries of the interior, labor, planning and budget, finance and public credit, commerce, foreign relations, and energy and mines. [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Jan 83 p 3 PA]

NOTIMEX DIRECTOR -- Hector Manuel Ezeta last night became general director of the news agency NOTIMEX. Last Tuesday he was sworn in as general director of Radio Educacion. [Mexico City UNO MAS UNO in Spanish 22 Jan 83 p 5 PA]

EL SALVADOR

DEFENSE MINISTER GARCIA ON FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION

PA130410 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Feb 83 pp 2-A, 10-A

[By Juan Fercsey]

[Excerpts] San Salvador -- We are in the command center of El Salvador. The telephone rings every minute. In these heavily protected buildings, the officers of the General Staff and Defense Ministry work. Accompanied by Roberto Aldana, correspondent for REUTER and LA PRENSA GRAFICA, I was greeted in his office by Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, minister of defense and security. In the middle of January, the world press described him as "the man of the day." However, the general is more "the man of the last 3 years." In October 1979, the army overthrew the rightwing Colonel Romero, and Garcia, who was then a colonel, joined the reformist junta together with civilian politicians. This junta changed several times but General Garcia and Christian Democratic leader Napoleon Duarte managed to organize free Constituent Assembly elections last March, although they constantly had to fight against subversion.

I had the opportunity to interview General Garcia 18 months ago. Now I asked him whether the military situation has worsened or improved since then.

"It is unquestionably better," replied General Garcia. "The subversives had announced that they would attain power in 4 months. They did not achieve their objective. A determining factor was that the army has popular support. The subversives did not, and in this kind of war one has to be able to depend on the people. On the other hand, the subversives have had constant support from abroad. It is important to explain that they are fighting against the people, not against the armed forces, said General Garcia. The subversives destroy bridges, factories, railroads, electric power pylons and highways. They are waging war against the people."

"They distinguish themselves for their vandalism," said General Garcia. "However, the military aspect is as follows: The subversives are active in Morazan, a mountainous forest region with rough terrain, and in the small towns of Chalatenango. The subversives have made no progress."

"The fundamental thing is this," said General Garcia: "The subversives want to prevent democratization. Why? Because they have no option in the process. They want to attain power through violence."

I said there are between 5,000 and 6,000 guerrillas, and asked whether they were still getting help from abroad.

"They are still receiving arms and ammunition," said the general, "not as much by land or by sea, which we have stopped, but by air from Nicaragua. We do not yet have the means to prevent night flights over the Gulf of Fonseca, for example. However, we have stopped many of those supplies since Honduras is cooperating with us."

The local papers report that a subversive who was killed had "white skin, freckles and red hair" and was fairly tall. I asked whether there are any mercenaries among the subversives.

"It is difficult to make such observations official," said the general, "because the subversives do not carry identification."

I asked if the U.S. military and economic assistance is substantial and necessary.

"Yes," replied General Garcia without hesitation. He added. "The democratization continues in spite of the subversion."

The U.S. Congress demands a report every 6 months to continue aid for El Salvador as long as violence decreases and democratization progresses. It should be noted that the subversive operations began in Morazan a short time before President Reagan's "certification" of the Salvadoran situation. Is it not the objective of these operations to influence the rest of the world, especially the world press and the U.S. Congress, just prior to the granting of U.S. aid? The timing of the activities appears to indicate this. The planning of these operations was surely not made by poor peasant youths, but by special propaganda activities.

"That is correct," said the general.

Some politicians are impatient because the war has already lasted 3 years. This is dangerous. I asked how the war could be ended.

"We must have a military success, which can be achieved with a strong action," said General Garcia," or through persuasion that there is no reason to continue these activities because they cannot achieve victory through violence. Then they can either accept of adopt the alternative that we offer."

In the last 3 years, two "final offensives" by the guerrillas, many of them trained in Cuba, have failed. After the 28 March 1982 elections, in which the people voted overwhelmingly against them, the guerrillas remained silent. For several months El Salvador disappeared from the international media as if by magic. Now they are again active and talking about a "dialogue."

"We offered them that a long time ago," said the general, "but they rejected it. Former Junta President Napoleon Duarte several times said that 'they do not want dialogue, they do not want participation, they only want power.' The position of the government and the Constituent Assembly is firm; dialogue, yes, but only after the subversives stop using violence. The escape route for the subversives would be to form a political party and participate in free and honest elections," said General Garcia. "Then the people will decide whether they accept them or not."

The Salvadoran people and the whole world are waiting for peace to arrive after so much violence and suffering. Fidel Castro recently said in Havana, when he received former Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, that the guerrillas cannot win in El Salvador. At a news conference on the day prior to the interview, correspondents asked General Garcia "whether he was prepared to talk with the guerrillas." General Garcia replied that only the people can decide on negotiation, and added: "We propose a solution through free and honest elections, not a negotiated solution."

After the incident with Colonel Ochoa Perez, there has been conjecture about General Garcia's eventual retirement. After 30 years of service, soldiers usually retire and General Garcia completed 30 years of service in January. Some correspondents believe he will retire within 3 months. Others believe not, "because the presence of Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, who comes from a poor family in San Vicente, is important for the armed forces at this moment."

RIGHTISTS URGE 'OVERTHROW' OF ARMY HIGH COMMAND

PA122019 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 9 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] San Salvador (ANN) -- The self-styled ultrarightwing group "Crusade for Peace and Work" [Cruzada pro Paz y Trabajo] has issued a public appeal to soldiers and officers to "overthrow the Army high command."

In a paid advertisement published in various local newspapers entitled "Now or Never," the crusade challenges "any honest militarymen left in the armed forces to demonstrate it now by uniting in their determination to change this situation of capitulation and treason."

SOLDIERS ESCAPE FROM GUERRILLA-HELD CAMP

PA121425 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Feb 83 pp 2, 36

[Excerpt] San Vincente, -- Twenty-six members of the armed forces who were being held prisoner by guerrillas who occupied El Carmen military base escaped on Wednesday night and reported to the military garrison. This was reported by reliable sources from the 5th Infantry Brigade, to which the soldiers belong. The soldiers include 2 corporals and 24 privates. They said they had been held prisoner since Saturday.

The source also said that the extremists are still at a camp near the volanco in San Vicente, and that at present they are only holding a female cook or "army nanny," who so far has not been located.

GUERRILLAS CONTROL SEVERAL TOWNS IN CHALATENANGO

PA132054 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 12 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] La Palma, San Ignacio, Citala and El Poy in Chalatenango Department have been under guerrilla control for 20 days, according to reports from local residents.

People traveling to and from Honduras through this area have said that rebels have established what seems to be a general command at El Refugio where government and private employees and their families once went for relaxation.

Reports also indicate that subversives have control over the northern highway from Tejutla to El Poy, and that they stop vehicles and ask passengers who dare to travel there for food and money.

El Refugio was once an armed forces camp, but it was abandoned with the opening of El Paraiso garrison, also in Chalatenango Department.

Trade between Honduras and El Salvador in this area has decreased because of rebel occupation, the sources said. They added that Metapan, Santa Ana Department, could also be under guerrilla control. It is probable that some 500 trained terrorists are currently in El Refugio, they said.

HIGH COMMAND SAYS 20 DEAD IN SUCHITOTO FIGHTING

PA131433 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0922 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Suchitoto, El Salvador, 13 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- At least 20 persons have been killed in violent fighting between Salvadoran Government troops and leftwing guerrillas seeking to control the highway that leads to this provincial city located northeast of the capital, the military high command reported today.

The report did not give details of casualities, although the army apparently has sustained the highest losses while attempting to dislodge the rebels from their strongholds along the 45-km strip of highway that links Suchitoto with San Salvador, the capital.

The sources indicated tht clashes in the area let up in the late hours yesterday after the guerrillas apparently retreated.

The fighting broke out yesterday when guerrillas attacked a truck carrying grain to Suchitoto, a prime target of guerrilla incursions in the civil war that began 3 years ago. Control of the city has repeatedly changed hands, with the rebels occupying it and then withdrawing under pressure from the government forces. This is a tactic typical of the fighting in this country.

The military spokesmen said they had no specific information on the number of casualties among the insurgents in the latest skirmish, although a soldier told newsmen he believed none of the rebels had been killed.

Government troops attacked the guerrilla positions with 81-mm mortar and rocket fire. An estimated 50 rebels responded with heavy machinegun and automatic rifle fire from their well-covered positions in the jungle along the highway.

Afterward, it was noted that Suchitoto garrison troops armed with bazookas were mobilized to the area but did not get close to the scene of the fighting.

On Friday the guerrillas were so close to the government lines that they even insulted the troops who were attempting to dislodge them from their positions.

The attack on Suchitoto occurred when the guerrillas had seemed to have lost much of their initiative in this prolonged war. Early this month the insurgents occupied the city of Berlin, an important urban center, for 48 hours before retreating in the face of an imminent army counteroffensive.

FDR LEADER GUILLERMO UNGO INTERVIEWED IN PARIS

LD091319 Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Feb 83 p 4

[Interview with Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front leader Guillermo Ungo by Marcel Niedergang in Paris -- date not given]

[Text] "We solemnly repeat our offer of negotiations to achieve a reasonable end to a conflict which has been going on for 3 years," we were told by Mr Guillermo Ungo, main leader of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR], the "political arm" of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrilla movement.

"We are making this offer," Mr Ungo added, although our forces are now proving that they have the initiative in the field. We are not doing it out of weakness but because we are aware that it is necessary to lose no time in fulfilling the expectations of the increasing number of people in our country who aspire to peace. If the military balance was broken tomorrow it might be too late."

Indeed the FDR leader thinks that "the guerrillas' rapid advance" in the past 3 weeks has made the conflict enter a "new dynamic phase." "The regular army," he said, "no longer has any offensive capability. It is merely reacting and responding to the actions by guerrilla groups which have realized their inadequacies. A balance between the army and the guerrillas has not yet been reached. But we are moving toward that."

In any case, Mr Ungo things that "the present acceleration might help bring closer the inevitable negotiations." The war, he added, "ought now to last half as long as generally predicted."

He bases his guarded optimism on an analysis of the military and also the political situation in El Salvador. "Several diplomats and high-ranking officers have just publicly stated that the recent big U.S. maneuvers in Honduras have at least proved that no serious action can be taken in the region without the United States.

"That is true in Honduras, where the maneuvers merely served to prepare for a possible direct U.S. intervention. It is true in El Salvador, whose army would collapse without U.S. aid. But is U.S. opinion prepared to lose some of its boys in an armed conflict in Central America?"

Mr Ungo stated that Salvadoran Defense Minister General Garcia "has had his position diminished because of his troops' failure," but that he is being maintained "because the Americans are concerned about a possible coup by extreme rightwing leader Major d'Aubuisson and his civilian and military friends."

The FDR leader, for his part, thinks that the hypothesis of an extreme rightwing coup d'etat is "not very likely."

"On the other hand," he said, "a balance of forces within the army is developing. Only yesterday there were two groups; the advocates of war at any price and those who wanted to continue the conflict while introducing reforms. Today the diehards are in a minority. The others are divided between supporters of the U.S. plan, war with reforms, and those who regard negotiations as vital. To all of them we are proposing not our surrender or obedience but preliminary negotiations to find a way of achieving peaceful, democratic and pluralist coexistence."

ROME PAPER INTERVIEWS PARTY LEADER HANDAL

PM091135 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 2 Feb 83 p 4

[Interview with Shafick Handal, secretary general of the Communist Party of El Salvador, by Giorgio Oldrini in Havana; date not specified]

[Text] Havana -- "The process of upsetting the strategic balance in favor of the revolutionary forces has begun;" this is the verdict expressed in an interview granted to L'UNITA by Shafick Jorge Handal, secretary general of the Communist Party of El Salvador and one of the five general commanders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. We met him on a leg of his recent tour of various European and Latin American countries and asked him for his assessment of the present stage of the struggle in El Salvador.

"On the military plane," Handal said, "Defense Minister Gen Guillermo Garcia himself, addressing the Constituent Assembly last July, admitted that between July 1981 and June 1982 the army had lost 3,801 men. By the end of the year the losses were 6,100, that is, 20 percent of the military strength. Of course the dead and wounded were replaced, but at the expense of combat experience and capability."

[Question] The United States has begun rapid training in El Salvador and at several U.S. bases of officers and special troops. What has the result been?

[Answer] It in fact trained 1,500 men of the Ramon Belloso Battalion in the United States itself. But the result has been a failure. In June they made their first appearance in the battle of Moscarron, in Chalatenango Department, and suffered many losses and many desertions.

[Question] The "October Martyrs and Heroes" offensive, started in October and finished in December, seems to have altered the situation, what happened?

[Answer] The offensive accelerated the rate of erosion, which can be seen clearly in the soldiers' tendency to surrender and the increasing numbers of prisoners that we are managing to take.

From October through December we took half our total of prisoners for the year -- about 2,500. We captured 1,400 weapons, the vast majority of them M-16 rifles, but also support weapons and a large amount of ammunition. In 1981 we captured virtually no arms and ammunition, since at that time the troops' morale was high and they resisted to the last bullet. Now, however, they surrender without firing or after brief skirmishes, though the country is small and permits the rapid arrival of reinforcements, especially by helicopter and A-37 aircraft.

And in January this tendency has been increasing. In 9 days we took over 100 prisoners and captured 140 weapons. For instance, a few days ago, 3 km from the El Paraiso barracks in Chalatenango Province, we laid an ambush for a unit of 40 soldiers of the antiguerrilla corps. A year ago they would have resisted or would have returned to their barracks. Last week, no sooner were the first shots fired than they surrendered, with weapons and ammunition.

[Question] What conclusions do you draw from this change?

[Answer] There is one primary, clear conclusion. In 1982 the army had better weapons than in 1981, and yet the results are as we have seen. So they need not more weapons but other men. That is, foreign troops. The United States is already wondering whom it is arming. General Garcia, the disputed defense minister, or Maj Bob D'Abuisson, the commander who turned against Garcia? Or is it supplying the guerrilla forces? Among other things, the old allegations that weapons were being sent to us from Cuba and Nicaragua are shown to be what they were -- provocations. We are being supplied by the army.

[Question] So what will the United States do?

[Answer] Before the Malvinas it was clearly planning to bring troops from Argentina and even from Colombia and Honduras. But since the Malvinas it is difficult to envisage the Argentinians, and following Belisario Betancur's victory in Colombia it is equally unlikely that Colombian troops will come here. The only one remaining is the Honduran Army. But it is a serious risk for them, because they are not an experienced army and because there are splits among them over the advisability of joining a war in El Salvador. And one must not forget that they already have to support the former Somozaists' attacks on Nicaragua and deal with emergent guerrilla warfare in the country. Those are too many tasks for an inexperienced army.

[Question] So is a Honduran intervention impossible too?

[Answer] No, it is not impossible, but the United States could launch it only with a view to direct intervention by U.S. Marines. In other words, the Honduran involvement would serve as a pretext for the United States to intervene to "establish peace in Central America." We do not rule out the possibility of the Reagan administration's taking such a decision, and we know that preparations in that direction are under way in the Panama Canal Zone base, in the southern United States, at Guantanamo and in Puerto Rico. But we believe that such an action would encounter strong resistance first and foremost within the United States itself, from the people, Congress and the parties. And there is major opposition in Latin America too, where a number of former allies have altered their stance for various reasons, such as Venezuela, colombia, Argentina and Bolivia. Indeed, groups of Latin American nations are rallying around the idea of promoting a political solution. The United States is left only with Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Honduras, and with Guatemala and Haiti in the Central American area -- all of which, however, have major domestic problems. Last, West Europe too is basically in favor of a negotiated solution -- some countries more openly than others, but almost all holding the same line.

[Question] Is it possible to envisage a liberation front victory against the U.S. will?

[Answer] Reagan's aim is primarily to prevent the success of another revolution. But it has been seen that even here in Central America the course of history does not depend on the U.S. will. Analysts, particularly in Europe, tend to attach an absolute value to the U.S. will, at least in Latin America. But history teaches otherwise. Cuba was victorious, Nicaragua was victorious and the struggle is very advanced in El Salvador and Guatemala. In any case the United States is not Reagan alone. The people's pressure is growing stronger and stronger and will impose a realistic solution of the problem.

[Question] At the end of the year the FMLN-revolutionary Democratic Front presented once again the proposal of immediate and unconditional negotiations to resolve the conflict. What repercussions has this had?

[Answer] Our proposal has been rejected by Washington because Reagan has not yet abandoned the idea of defeating us militarily. Even when he talks about dialogue, he actually means forcing us to lay down our weapons so as to have us at his mercy and to lead us down a fraudulent electoral path. But we had to take up the armed struggle precisely because the electoral path was closed to us.

[Question] You have said that your peace proposal found favor among the political forces and even within the army. What signs of this have you perceived?

[Answer] Within the government itself an inclination toward accepting a dialogue has emerged, and the same applies to several parties. But there has been resistance as a result of the immediate contrary statements of the United States and the ruling Arena party. Within the army this current, which already existed, has grown stronger; many soldiers, including officers, do not understand why there should not be equal-based negotiations, since the very course of the war shows that we are equal. And the soldiers who want to negotiate belong to the very units that have fought the hardest, certainly not the cowards or malingerers. There is a greater awareness that theirs is an antipeople war, while it is clear that the United States controls the country more every day. The nationalistic troops feel like the tools of a new colonialism. In December the general staff, worried by the situation, submitted in a kind of referendum among the officers the proposal of holding negotiations, but only after gaining a major victory on the battlefield, as to negotiate from positions of strength. Some 20 percent supported the General Staff's proposal and about half requested negotiations without preconditions.

[Question] A few weeks ago Col Sigfrido Ochoa, military commander of Cabanas Province, defied Defense Minister General Garcia and a compromise was reached on both sides. What is the meaning of this split within the army?

[Answer] It is a profound crisis of authority, since in wartime commanders have prestige if they win, whereas for months the army has not managed to win even a skirmish between patrols. The traditional splits are complicated by the insinuation of the defeatist spirit. Moreover, Ochoa's rebellion also put paid to a U.S. bid to improve the regime's image with a view to the Senate debate on aid to El Salvador. So it was a serious blow to Reagan's military authority and political plans.

[Question] How did this qualitative change occur in the guerrilla fight?

[Answer] This advance cannot be explained without taking account of the people's masses' growing participation in the war. This, despite the violent repression unleashed throughout these months against the civilian population. But our successes are not only military, because in a revolutionary people's war it is impossible to separate the military from the political and diplomatic.

[Question] Could the army's disintegration now lead to a situation like the one that occurred in Nicaragua, where the Somozists eventually fled?

[Answer] We do not know. What is certain is that the U.S.-backed dictatorship's army is suffering heavy blows. What the final act will be, nobody knows. I repeat, we have done our utmost to secure a political solution by means of negotiations. But in wartime, wishes cannot always be realized. And because of the paradoxes of imperialism, we who are winning are willing to conduct a dialogue and are flexible, whereas those who are losing are rigid in their quest for military victory.

HONDURAS

MISKITOS REPORTEDLY FIGHTING CUBANS IN NICARAGUA

PA130437 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Interview with Miskito leader (Roberto Felton), by (Mario Mendoza) via telephone; not date give -- live or recorded]

[Text] [In progress] [Felton] ...That is right, our boys have encountered Cuban troops, mainly in the region of Bonanza. This is the region where the gold mines are located. We have found that the Cubans are basically the spine of the infantry, logistics, and communications. We have learned this by the aircraft we have shot down. During the past week we whot down two helicopters; the pilots were Cubans. Likewise, we have found out that the troop officers and some infantry soldiers are Cubans, due to their experience.

However, the Miskito-Sumo troops and many people in the Pacific have joined us. This has allowed us to surround the mines area, cut across the roads, blow up El Salto hydroelectric dam, take over (?Angelina and Masahuat) and blow up all the bridges in the region. We have cause them approximately 200 deaths; we calculated this from the number of weapons we have recovered. On our side, we have had 22 deaths and some 50 wounded. All the cities on the Atlantic coast are presently isolated; the mine region, Puerto Cabezas and all the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. This, more or less, is the present situation.

[Question] Roberto, since you are well aware of your country's internal problems, could you tell us how many Cubans are taking part in these operations within Nicaragua?

[Answer] In the region of Bonanza we can assure that there are three infantry battalions.

[Question] You previously told us that the pilots flying the helicopters were Cubans.

[Answer] Exactly; we can attest that they were part of what we might term as the Cuban Army, judging from their identification papers.

[Question] How can you prove your statement that they were Cubans? What are the characteristics of these Cubans, whom you say are in Nicaragua?

[Answer] The Cubans who live on the Atlantic coast are normally dark-skinned [morenos], with (?curly) hair. They are physically similar to those living on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, but there are certain differences.

[Question] What are these differences, according to you?

[Answer] The difference is that our blacks are garifunas [term used to described the blacks who live along the Atlantic coast of Honduras and Nicaragua] and the Cuban blacks are not. Therefore, we can tell whether a black is from the Atlantic coast or not.

[Question] Is there a difference concerning the uniforms, type or weapons, etc.?

[Answer] Yes, undoubtedly the Cuban uniforms are better made than the Sandinist uniforms. This is noticed during combat.

[Question] According to what you have said, is this the first time that Cuban troops are participating in those combats?

[Answer] Yes. They have always participated as drivers, logisitcs and state security and communications personnel, and airplane and boat pilots, but this is the first time we have seen them operating as antiguerrilla troops.

PAZ BARNICA DENIES PRESENCE OF REBEL CAMPS

PA111945 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] During a press conference held yesterday, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica reaffirmed that there are not, nor have there ever been, former Somoza guard camps in Honduran territory. He said that there are refugees camps that are operating under favorable conditions, as stated by an official of the United States Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees who recently visited the area, and by Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador at the United Nations. Paz Barnica also announced that he has already presented to the National Congress his secretariat's yearly report on the political, diplomatic and economic activities for 1982. In 1982, the country received more than 110 million lempiras from the Foreign Secretariat, the foreign secretary added.

Regarding Honduran participation in the nonaligned meeting to be held shortly in India, Paz Barnica said that one can only attend a forum if one is a member, but Honduras, following the elemental interests of a developing country, must be present at all forums. Our country, through it representation before the United Nations, has already expressed its desire to attend the meeting as an observer.

Paz Barnica also gave a report on his visit to several South American countries and Panama. He announced a possible meeting among the foreign ministers of Central America, without exclusions.

GUATEMALA REPORTEDLY STAYS GONZALEZ EXECUTION

PA112023 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The Honduran foreign secretary has confirmed that the Honduran citizen sentenced death in Guatemala will not be executed. Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica announced this only minutes after speaking to Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola. Marco Antonio Gonzalez' case is now before the Supreme Court and criminal courts. The trial will continue until he is either absolved or sentenced.

The Honduran Foreign Secretariat has played a key role in this case. Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica also spoke with Archbishop Mario Casariegos and thanks to this our compatriot was saved from death in Guatemala.

(Marco Tulio Romero) interviewed Paz Barnica on this subject: [Begin recording] [Question] Mr Foreign Secretary, is the Honduran Foreign Secretariat carrying out specific negotiations to stay the execution of our compatriot in Guatemala?

[Answer] I would like to say that we have followed this case closely, with much interest and humanitarian concern, seeking the appropriate solution to the problem. Yesterday I spoke with Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola who told me that since the lawyer Honduras appointed was able to present an appeal at the right time and was able to stop the execution, the matter is now in the hands of the Guatemalan Supreme Court and this creates a new situation. This new situation does not allow the execution of our compatriot; therefore, he is no longer to be executed. What follows now is that he will be released if found innocent. However, if he is convicted, he will be sentenced according to Guatemalan law. We hope justice will prevail and that if he is innocent he will be released.

Today a Foreign Relations Secretariat special representative will travel to Guatemala to discuss several matters including this countryman's case. [end recording]

JUDGES' APPOINTMENTS CAUSE CONFLICT IN CONGRESS

PA101704 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 9 Feb 83 p 16

[By Guillermo Castellanos Enamorado]

[Text] The last phase of the political drama begun by the Permanent Commission of the National Congress ended yesterday when two more Supreme Court justices, Jose Enrique Rodriguez Castellanos and Felipe Paredes y Paredes, were sworn in. Castellanos said that they were being sworn today because they had been out of the city when their fellow judges took the oath in January.

It was the Permanent Commission's decision to ask for and immediately accept the judges' resignations and then to appoint their replacements that has caused the rift endangering the supremacy that the Liberal bloc has maintained in the Congress. The situation became red hot the week before last when the commission's report on the reorganization of the court was presented to the chamber and was approved through Decree No 4 which officially appointed Felipe Paredes y Paredes, Edith Rivera de Lopez, Enrique Rodriguez Castellanos and Haroldo Arturo Lopez Herrera to the Supreme Court.

Lopez Herrera replaces Lusandor Deras Arevalo who said yesterday that he resigned in favor of Liberal harmony when he saw the turn the situation had taken. He decided to accept the post of legal adviser to the National Congress. Rosendo Contreras Zuniga, alternate judge, is the only one who has yet to be sworn in.

The internal confrontation in the Liberal bloc led the Liberal Party central executive council to expel Deputy Orlando Gomez Cisneros from the party.

The situation has become conflictive since the deputies of the so-called small bloc are in danger of running the same fate as Gomez Cisneros. It is being requested that they or at least Micheliti [Deputy Roberto] be expelled from the Liberal Party.

COMMENTARY SEES POSSIBLE U.S. POLICY CHANGES

FL100241 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick's tour of several Central American countries appears to be related to a restatement of Washington's foreign policy. Some observers believe that President Ronald Reagan has begun a change in his Central American policy under pressure by Democratic and Republican legislators, and that he is moderating his rhetoric and moving toward the center of the world's political scene.

According to the observers, Reagan has no other alternative inasmuch as his political future as well as that of the Republican Party is at stake.

In Panama, Reagan's ambassador stated that her government is interested in supporting peaceful initiatives in the region. It is clear that when one examines statements by imperialism's spokesmen, one must be skeptical because they say one thing and then do the contrary. Ambassador Kirkpatrick made the statement in Panama but just a few hours later asserted in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, that Nicaragua is a threat to Honduras and Costa Rica and took advantage of the opportunity to accuse Cuba of being responsible for the Central American situation.

Kirkpatrick, without shame and political honesty, told reporters that Sandino should be exalted for his struggle against the Yankee Marines because he had done it without outside help, while Cuba is doing it with Russian weapons. Such dishonesty is astonishing when its source is a representative of ferocious and primitive reactionaryism.

Examing the whole picture one can see that the United States finds itself in a tight spot in Central America and other parts of the world. In the Middle East, Washington is encountering serious contradictions with the Israelis. Its maneuvers against Poland and Afghanistan have failed so far. The Iran-Iraq war also affects its plans. Now it finds it has to make a decision in the Central American crisis by choosing between defeat or directly intervening with an invasion against Nicaragua from Honduras in an effort to crush the Salvadoran combatants.

The situation in El Salvador has worsened for the United States and the pro-Yankee regime of Alliance -- Arena -- led by former Maj Roberto d'Abuisson. In addition, the revolutionary forces are waging victorious battles, seizing arms from their enemies who are fleeing in the face of their advance and taking increasingly more territory.

As you can see, Kirkpatrick's mission is not an easy one. On another subject related to this issue, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Thomas Enders, while conducting a correlated effort in Spain, stated that in order to achieve peace in Central America it is necessary to withdraw all military advisers operating in the area. It is interesting to note that this gentleman, in an open competition with Kirkpatrick in what refers to cynicism, said the United States only has 140 military advisers in El Salvador and speaks about thousands of Cubans and Russians, including, of course, the Cuban teachers, physicians and builders who are fulfilling an internationalist mission in Nicaragua.

Finally, there is something at the bottom of all this. It does not matter what Reagan, Kirkpatrick, Enders and many other servants of imperialism do, Central America's future will not be decided by Washington. That is a decision for the Central American peoples, and it will be very difficult to check the march undertaken by Nicaragua, El Salvador and other countries in the area.

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH CASTRO

FL101200 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo of Algeria's National Liberation Front and minister of foreign relations. The meeting took place yesterday shortly before Dr Taleb Ibrahimi's departure for his country. The two leaders discussed topics of mutual interest related to international problems, the seventh summit of the Nonaligned Movement to be held in New Delhi next month and matters of bilateral interest.

Prior to his departure, the distinguished visitor made statements for the press stressing the development and strengthening of relations between Cuba and Algeria. At an airport facility where he was accompanied by his host, Foreign Minsiter Isidoro Malmierca, Dr Taleb Ibrahimi expressed gratitude over the visit, the meeting with top Cuban leader Fidel Castro and the fraternal reunion with his friends.

VICE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ VISITS YUGOSLAVIA

For Belgrade reportage of the visit of Vice President of the Council of State and Vice President of the Council of Ministers Carlos Rafael Rodriguez' visit to Yugoslavia, including his arrival on 8 February, talks with Mitja Ribicic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium on the world situation and bilateral cooperation, and talks with President of the SFRY President Petar Stambolic on preparations for the upcoming conference of nonaligned countries in New Delhi, see the Yugoslavia section of the 9 and 10 February and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

Meets With SFRY Leaders

FL101311 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of Cuba's Council of State and Ministers, fulfilled a full work schedule on Wednesday in Belgrade. He had meetings with Mitja Ribicic, president of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, and Petar Stambolic, president of the Yugoslav Federal Council.

Carlos Rafael, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, held a wide-ranging exchange of views regarding the main issues of the international situation. The Nonaligned Movement and its seventh summit were among ocher topics discussed by the leaders in their fraternal talks. The two parties described the talks as useful and expressed their mutual desire to continue their development.

In his meeting with Yugoslav President Petar Stambolic, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez conveyed personal greetings from Cuban President Fidel Castro. The Yugoslav leader reciprocated with warm greetings for Fidel.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez heads an official Cuban delegation which is paying an official visit the SFRY.

Ends Visit

FL102109 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2040 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Carlos Rafael Rodrigues, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo, today concluded a visit to Yugoslavia during which he met with that country's highest leaders. During his 3-day stay in Belgrade, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez met with President Peter Stambolic, Yugoslavia's League of Communists President Mitja Ribicic and Zvone Dragan, vice president of the Federal Executive Council.

MONTANE ARRIVES IN SYRIA, MAKES STATEMENT

FL101345 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] A Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] delegation led by Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, arrived in Damascus on Wednesday at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. Muhammad Haydar, member of the Ba'th Party National Command, led the list of Syrian leaders present to welcome Montane and his delegation at the Damascus International Airport. The Cuban leader said upon arrival that his visit marks one of the ways in which the PCC confirms its support for progressive Arab countries and for the PLO in its struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

CASTRO SENDS GREETINGS TO VIETNAM'S LE DUAN

FL101915 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Hanoi -- Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party, has sent greetings to his Vietnamese colleague, Le Duan, on the occasion of the 53d anniversary of the Vietnamese Communist Party. The message expressed profound feelings of fraternity and admiration for the heroic Vietnamese people and for the invincible communist vanguard contingent forged in the teachings and creative example of President Ho Chi Minh.

It also praised the struggle of the Vietnamese people, a great revolutionary nation which succeeded in gaining the fatherland's independence, defeated cruel and powerful enemies led by Yankee imperialism and made a contribution to the internationalist cause of national liberation for the Indochinese and all the world's peoples. That example, Fidel's message stated, will serve to inspire evén further the nations fighting for their emancipation and shall be remembered with gratitude and respect by all those who defend the cause of progress and justice during these trying times.

The commander in chief's message to Le Duan reiterated the Communist Party of Cuba's unswerving solidarity with and total support for the just and earnest policies implemented by the Vietnamese Communist Party.

ARGENTINES DECORATE ENVOY RAUL ROA KOURI

FL101605 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Carlos Muniz, Argentine ambassador to the United Nations, has presented the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of May to Cuba's permanent UN representative, Raul Roa Kouri. The order was awarded to the Cuban diplomat for the solidarity he expressed with the just struggle of the Argentine people to recover their sovereign rights over the Malvinas Islands. The decoration ceremony was attended by many UN representatives and other officials.